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Comments:

I feel strongly that the "No Action" option should be exercised for Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA) Project #51255.

I am concerned with the use of clear cutting as a management technique based upon the scars meft on the face of MBNF from past efforts. There is no evidence presented that clear cutting will ony be performed in areas where forest regeneration will be successful. MBNF is strewn with areas that have not regenerated and have suffered from enlargement due to aridity or wind. While the "Scoping Document" may show a picture of success (Figure 1: Lodgepole pine regenerating in a past treatment area) that is not countered by a quantitative assessment of relative success/failure acreage).

I do not see an assessment of potential increase of habitat fragmentation for avian and amphibian species.

There is no assessment presented of changes to landscape viewshed.

I understand that there are large swaths of beetle-killed overstory. It is my understanding that research is mixed on the fire hazard impact of this condition - it has been equally argued that temperature and humidity changes play an equal and larger role in this threat. The "Scoping Document" does not admit to this alternative assessment, such an omission adversely impacts the credibility of assertions made elsewhere in the document.

I am heartened to see in the "Scoping Document" that "No new permanent or temporary road construction would occur in IRAs".

I am a frequent back-country on-foot and snowshoe user of MBNF for neary five decades. While management practices have visibly improved over the years I feel that the issues noted above warrant extra care and project planning documentation before proceeding.

My vote: "No Action".